

## 1976 - 1979

### **1976 AUDIE "PAPPY" CAST**

**1906 - 1980**

Audie "Pappy" Cast was born in Bray, Oklahoma, Indian territory, in 1906 (Oklahoma Became a state in 1907). Pappy got his fiddle when he won a horse in a contest and his uncle won a fiddle. Pappy didn't want any horse, and his uncle didn't want a fiddle, so they swapped. Pappy started playing the fiddle around the age of fourteen and was known As "Preacher "Cast until he moved to New York State in the 1940's. He won a lot of fiddling contests including the Oklahoma, and New Mexico State championships, and placed second in Illinois. He was with Sally Montana & "The Montana Plainsmen" in 1944 & 1945. He also toured off and on, with The "Arizona Ramblers". Pappy made his home in Marathon, New York.

### **ALICE COLVIN CLEMENS**

**1915 - 1999**

Alice Colvin Clemens Has a life time devotion to the art of old time fiddling. For many years she dreamed of a fiddling Hall Of Fame. Her dreams finally came true when she became (along with Ray Cronk and Austin Perry) a co-founder of The North American Old Tyme Fiddlers all Of Fame & Museum Institute. Her more than twenty years of devotion has helped to make The Hall of fame & Museum what it is today. Alice was the first administrator of The Hall Of Fame. She also is a past president and former board member of The New York State Old Tyme Fiddlers Association. Alice is a three time New York State Ladies Champion Fiddler, and a 1981 New York State Country Music Hall Of Fame Inductee.

### **HAL CASEY**

**1929 - 2012**

Hal Casey was born in Syracuse, N.Y. At the age of 6 years old he became interested In the violin, mainly through the influence of his mother. She played the Irish Concertine, specializing in Jigs, Reels, and Hornpipes. This led to the study of classical violin through his school years, finding Hal active in various symphony orchestras. Tiring of the confinement of Symphony work, he formed a jazz group and went on a tour down the East cost. While in Georgia, Hal became involved with a country group and found that this was what he really grooved on. This led to spots on The Grand Ole Opry as a side man in the early 50's. After a brief stint he returned to Syracuse, Hal has won The New York State Fiddle Championship four times.

### **ART COLVIN**

**1876 - 1962**

Arthur Clyde Colvin was born at his father's hotel in Worthville, N.Y. (Worth, Jefferson County) on Aug.2, 1876. His mother was Mary Gelena Edwards Colvin and his father was Levi Fayette Colvin. Art was married to Emma Wagner and had three daughters. Art's father was a fiddler and often played at dances. Art started on the fiddle around the age of 5. Three of Art's siblings played the fiddle, but Art was special and was soon playing at dances & anywhere there was an audience. It's felt that he was greatly influenced by Nick Goodall, the mad fiddler of the North Country. Art and his siblings formed an orchestra; his wife played the piano, and was in great demand, playing everywhere. Art won a Henry Ford Fiddle Contest at the New York State Fair.

**1977****GEORGE HARRIGER****1933 -**

George Harriger was born in 1933, one of 8 children. His Uncle, Arthur Carpenter, was a well-known fiddler in the Finger Lakes area. George's brother, Jody, is also a fiddler. George learned to play by ear, and for the most part, is self-taught. The 1st tune he learned was the "Four Leaf Clover". At 17 he played with "The Bar O Boys" on WKRT radio in Cortland, N.Y. While in the Army, he played with Jimmy Dean and "the Texas Wildcats". After the Army, George played with "The Green Mountain Boys", "The Ramblers", "The Country Rhythm Boys", and "The Jamboree Boys". George has written many tunes including: The Ringing Fiddle, The Road to Osceola, Elnora's Favorite Waltz, and Spirit of Love. George is three time New York State Champion Fiddler.

**1978****ROCH "FRENCHIE" CHALOUX****1911 - 1990**

Roch "Frenchie" Chaloux was born July 11, 1903, in Saint Chrysotome, Quebec, Canada. He was the son of William and Armandine Chaloux. He came to New York State from Canada in 1924. He lived in Saranac Lake before moving to Taberg, in the 1960's; he worked as a mechanic and inspector for Mohawk Airlines. He was a supervisor and helped build Griffiss Air Force Base. He was in charge of the fire tower at 46 corners and also worked for the State Department of Environmental Conservation before retiring in 1971. He was a life member of the New York State Old Tyme Fiddlers Association. His favorite fiddle tune was "Canadian Four Step" and he would play it anytime anyone requested it. "Frenchie" died November 17, 1990.

**1979****WINFERD "MURPH" BAKER****1911 - 1986**

Winferd "Murph" Baker was born in Carthage, N.Y. in 1911. His father played mouth organ and his mother played piano and organ. His uncle, Franklin Wood, played the fiddle. Murph was 7 or 8 when he heard Leonard (Lenny) Harris play the fiddle at a dance. Murph was intrigued but he was 11 before he got his first fiddle. Lenny furnished the incentive, but Murph learned by himself. He even taught himself to read music. In 1940 Murph played in an orchestra led by Jonny Meyer. Mr. Meyer had experience at the Eastman School of Music. He played first fiddle and Murph played second. Slim Cox was Murph's favorite fiddler. Murph had over 300 tunes that he knew, recorded on tapes. Murph served on the NYSOTFA board of directors. Murph Baker passed to Fiddlers' Green in May of 1986.

**1980 - 1989****1980****LARRY DOWNEY****1910 - 2001**

Larry Downey was born to Mercy and Robert Downey on Aug. 3, 1910 in Endicott, N.Y. His love of music came down through his maternal Grand- father, who owned an Edison Phonograph and about 100 records. He began learning the fiddle at the age of 7. He developed an excellent ear playing the pieces from Grandpa's old cylinder records. At the age of 16 he played his first Square Dance and after that he played at house dances. Larry has played in many musical groups and at many Round and Square Dances down through the years. Larry learned much of his repertoire from a blind fiddler, Jehile B. Kirkhuff, who is also in the N.Y. State Fiddlers' Hall of Fame.

**1981****JEHILE B. KIRKHUFF****1907 - 1981**

Jehile B. Kirkhuff was born in 1907. His father and uncle were fiddlers. When he was 3 years old, some Irishman gave him a tin fiddle. Jehile played his first tune on it, "Pop Goes the Weasel". In 1926, at the age of 19, he won his first fiddle contest in Susquehanna County. He won there again the following year. He spent all his life in Northern Pennsylvania, and Southern New York, except for an occasional trip. Jehile won the World Championship Fiddle Contest in 1954. He was said to know more than 4000 songs. Jehile, though blind most of his life, was very active. He was a poet, a philosopher, a naturalist, a composer, a good square dance caller, a teacher and a great storyteller. More than a champion of fiddle music, he was a champion of mankind.

**1982****FRED P. SPAFFORD****1894 - 1982**

Fred P. Spafford was born in the town of Mexico, N.Y. in 1894. He taught himself how to play the violin. Fred made his first violin out of a cigar box when he was a young man and went on to make 20 violins and 4 violas. He was taught the fine art of violin making and repairing by Claude Versey, a New Brunswick Canadian, who was working in Syracuse at the time. Fred was very quality conscious and told of having one instrument that was not good enough to please him, so he destroyed it. He would not sell an inferior product. He refers to his 3rd fiddle, he made around 1937, as his pet. This violin was sold to Linn Coleman of Homer, N.Y. Fred made the fiddle that George Harriger, 3 times N.Y. State Champion, uses. Fred passed away July 8, 1982.

**1983****TELLETA BOURNE ATWELL****1909 - 2015**

Telleta Bourne Atwell was born in Rome, N.Y. She started playing the fiddle at the ripe old age of 8 and by her twelfth birthday was playing in an orchestra called "The Bluebird Orchestra". The group played at Kasoag Lake and at the Redfield Ole Home week. Telleta graduated from Fredonia and Syracuse University. She taught music for 32 years. Her high school band from Liberty, N.Y., played at the 1939 World's Fair and the Valhalla band played for the 1965 World's Fair in New York City. Telleta says she loved teaching band and orchestra to the young people and retired to Florida to music and golf. Telleta lives with her sister Bert Bourne in Sylvan Beach, N.Y. in the summer and Dunedin, Florida in the winter. Well into her nineties, Telleta continued to play in the Symphony in Florida and host fiddle get-togethers at her home.

**1984****KEN BONNER****1911 - 1983**

Ken Bonner was born in 1911 at Burke, N.Y. He first played a fiddle when he was 12 years old. Ken's grandfather gave him a fiddle, and a family friend, George Leonard, showed him how to tune it. The first song he learned was "Little Brown Jug". Ken played at numerous kitchen parties until 1930 when he started playing in the dance halls. In 1936 he started playing and instructing square dances. Ken played and called square dances, for 3 years, in the big beautiful ball room of the famous Hotel Aster in New York City. He also played at the 1939 World's Fair in New York City. In 1979 he won the Senior Division of the Adirondack Fiddle Contest, and won the Best Old timer at the NYCAN contest in Osceola, N.Y.

**1985****JIMMIE HAMBLIN****1931 - 2008**

Those of you who have had the pleasure of seeing Jimmie perform, know of his great talents. He is, without doubt, one of the greatest talents to ever pick up a fiddle. He is not only a great fiddle player; he is a showman, a pro in every sense of the word. Jimmie worked on the Pete Williams TV Show, WKGB channel 6, Schenectady, N.Y., where he was featured on fiddle, piano, and Vocals for 5 years. Who can forget his rendition of "George Washington Bridge"? Jimmie is the most sought after musician for recording sessions, and can be heard on well over a hundred records backing up other artists. You could often find Jimmie playing fiddle, jamming with a group, or donating his time and talent to some worthy organization. Jimmie Hamblin, Warrensburg, N.Y. passed away on Sept, 5, 2008

**1986****F. A. JIM DUPRE****1919 - 2017**

F.A. Jim Dupre was born on November 11, 1919 in Lowville, Mass. His family settled in Champlain, N. Y. Where Jim took violin lessons for 7 years at St. Mary's Academy, Jim paid for the lessons with vegetables and by doing chores. His Great Granddad, Granddad, Father, and brother Roger, all played the fiddle, in fact, the fiddle Jim plays has been passed down in the family since 1860. Jim's greatest influences were Don Messer and Chubby Wise. Jim formed a group called "The Roaming Boys". They played Round and Square dances in the area and over in Quebec, Canada. In 1941 he married Pearl. Jim was in the Army, serving in Special Forces from 1942 – 1946. Jim received the Ray Cronk Memorial Award 1984 and has served as a board member of the NYSOTFA.

**1987****DONALD F. WOODCOCK****1948 -**

Donald F. Woodcock was born at Potsdam, N.Y. in 1948. Don's father, Howard, was a fiddler and his mother played piano. Don started taking piano lessons when he was 11 and began learning the fiddle at age 14. Later, Don started playing at Grange Halls with different bands. For several years he played with "The Country Pride" and then with "The New Ranchman". He has backed such entertainers as Red Sovine, Carl Smith and Helen Cornelius. He is a 3 time New York State Fiddle Champion (1977, 1979, 1982). He was also runner-up at Barry, Vermont in 1978, 1979, 1983, and 1984. He has participated in some Canadian contests and placed well. Don is a member of long standing in the New York State Old Time Fiddlers Association.

**1988****ROGER FARR****1925 - 2004**

Roger was born in the village of Black River in 1925. His father played the fiddle and Harmonica. His older brother played fiddle, and got Roger interested in the guitar so he would have a backup. They played a lot of house parties and Roger soon learned the fiddle. At the age of 16 Roger played with Sally Montana and The Plainsmen. After a tour of duty in World War II, Roger joined "Van and His All Veterans Band". In 1948 he got married and worked the mines for 26 years. He played somewhere almost every Saturday night. He later formed his own band "The Timberliners" playing fiddle and steel guitar. Roger said that he is pretty much self-taught. He played at Grange Hall, house parties, fire halls, and for senior citizens.

**1989****GLADYS DAVIS WHITTAKER****1920 - 1994**

Gladys Davis Whittaker was born in 1920 in the town of Fowler, N.Y. and lived most of her life in Spragueville, N.Y. She started her musical life playing the harmonica at age 4, then playing chords on the piano for her brother at dances. Her brother, Denver Davis, played the fiddle and taught her to play at the age of 10. She was a member of the New York State Fiddlers Association and supported many of the association chapters with her fiddling and playing chords for untold numbers of fiddlers down thru the years. She was an interviewer for a taping project for The North American Fiddlers Hall of Fame. Gladys has served on the board of Directors for the New York Old Time Fiddlers Association and as President of the Liberty Fiddlers. Gladys Whittaker passed away on January 13, 1994.

**1990 - 1999****1990****MORRIS A. PECK****1917 -**

Morris A. Peck was born in 1917 in the town of Macomb. His mother got him his first fiddle, (3/4 size). Morris played his first house dance at age 16. He married his wife, Alice, in 1944 and moved to Little Bow, near Gouverneur, N.Y. In 1955 his wife, two of her brothers and Morris formed a band called "The Northern Hillbillies". They played at Hailesboro Grange Hall and the Richville Grange for a few years. In 1967 they played every Friday night on WIGS radio in Gouverneur. They played for several years at hotels in the area. Morris was a member of the Black River Valley Fiddlers. Morris liked to hunt and fish, but most of all he loved fiddling. He said his fiddle was his good friend and one of life's enjoyments.

**1991****ROGER HADLEY****1937 - 1984**

Roger was born on March 7, 1937 to Henry and Estella Hadley. His Great-Grandfather, and his Uncle, Harold Hadley, were fiddlers. Roger contends that no particular fiddler influenced him to start fiddling; he just loved fiddle music whenever he heard it. He started to play when he was 15 years old. He played on a full sized fiddle and his favorite tunes were "Maple Sugar" and "Joys of Quebec," but he loved all the other tunes too. Down thru the years he played at square dances in most of the Grange Halls and night-spots around the Carthage area. Roger had a farm and he sold real estate. He also delved into politics a little. He was a past president of the Black River Valley Fiddlers Association. On Sept. 19, 1984 Roger Hadley passed away.

**1992****ROGER THESIER****1921 -2003**

Roger, "The Happy Fiddler", came from a musical family of 14 in Carthage NY was named New York inductee to the Fiddler's Hall of Fame in 1992. His father started him on the violin when he was 7. His influences were local fiddlers starting with his father and also Will Henry, Fred Gloss and Max Rodgers. He attended Cornell University and later studied violin making at the University of New Hampshire under Karl Roy. He made several violins including a 5 string fiddle. Often he was seen teaching fiddling on the porch or sitting at the Luthier's table repairing or making a fiddle at HOF events. Roger received the Ray Cronk Award in 1987, for his work to promote, perpetuate and preserve Old Time Fiddling. He is also the founder of the Oswego Valley Fiddlers Assoc. He was very active in the infancy of NYSOTFA and was one a group who started the popular Sunday concert series and in getting the museum and Hall of Fame in operation. Outside of fiddling, Roger belonged to the Masons, the Rotary, the first Methodist Church and more recently was a communicant of St. Peter's Church in San Francisco, CA. He served in Army during World War II in the Asiatic-Pacific theatre. He founded Roger L. Thesier Real Estate in Fulton and worked in the real estate field 40 years. His marriage to Dorothy Closs gave him a daughter and two sons. He married Ellie Cua on Dec. 18, 1988. They moved to San Francisco to be near Ellie's family. Roger corresponded others of the association with ideas, suggestions and advice. He died July 26, 2003 .He will long be remembered for his good nature, hard work, his artistry and the many contributions he made.

**1993****DONALD G. "JACK" DANIELS****1916 - 1997**

Donald G. "Jack" Daniels was born in 1916. His Dad, Grandfather, and Uncle played the fiddle and his Mother played the piano. His brother, Jim, played the guitar and steel guitar. Jack started out playing the banjo, but was really interested in the fiddle. While he was playing banjo behind Roland Shaw, Jack was impressed with Roland's style, so Jack practiced fiddle and got ideas from watching Roland. Later Jack played with Tommy Overton's Orchestra. They later changed the name to "Rojax". Jack is with he Black River Valley Fiddlers and has twice won the Rodger Hadley Award and has won many fiddle contests. He was chosen as one of the fiddlers at the 100th Anniversary rededication of the Statue of Liberty. Jack passed away on April 18, 1997. His wife, Nancy, donated a beautiful display case to the Hall of Fame, especially built for some of Jack's memorabilia.

**1994****RANDOLPH E. KERR****1924 - 2010**

Randolph E. Kerr was born in Parish, N.Y. in 1924. His Dad, Willard Kerr, was an old time fiddler. His Step-Grandfather Angus Fraser, Came from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, and was a fiddler also. Many of Randy uncles played fiddle, Scottish, Irish, and French style playing. At age 9, Randy fell heir to a banjo. He took lessons from Luther B. Askins. Randy soon started picking out songs his Dad was playing on the fiddle, so Randy and his Dad would spend many a night on the front porch playing songs from the old country. After Randy's Dad passed away, Randy inherited the fiddle, but he never played it until he retired. In 1981 Randy picked up his Dad's fiddle and it has been a love affair ever since. The 1993 addition to the Hall of Fame was dedicated to Randy due to his organization, work and dedication to the project.

**1995****ERNIE MCDONALD****1936 -**

Ernie McDonald was born in Parish, N.Y. in 1936. His father was a fiddler and played the piano. The Wolfe family, his father's cousins, Gerald, Kenneth, and Lester, were all good fiddlers. Ernie recalls, as a child, gatherings at his grandmother's house. His grandmother would greet all the guests, holding whatever instruments they happened to have, and there would be a great joyous hoedown with fiddle music, square dancing and plenty of refreshments. So Ernie grew up listening to those wonderful parties. Ken Wolfe taught him many of the tunes he now knows, the first being "Flop Eared Mule". Ernie composed many tunes of his own, including one he wrote for the Fiddlers' Hall of Fame, which Roger Thesier, titled "The Happy Fiddler".

**1996****JESSE HASTINGS****1930 -**

Jesse Hastings was born in 1930 to Nelson and Bertha Hastings, in Copenhagen, N.Y. His father gave him his first fiddle and his father's hired hand, Ed Stanford taught him. The first tune he learned was "Red Wing". The first group he played with was "Higby's Harmonic Band". After this group disbanded, Jesse helped form a group that called themselves "The 76ers". The name of the band was changed in the late 80's to "The Country Stompers". Jesse joined The Black River Valley Fiddlers Association when they were organized 1979. He is the proud owner of a handmade fiddle left to him by Deforest Holmes. Jesse was named 1995 Citizen of the Year of Champion (N.Y.) Grange. His favorite pastime is playing music whenever he can. He has been a concert artist at the Hall of Fame several times.

**1997****HILTON KELLY****1925 - 2015**

Hilton Kelly was born in Upper Bedell, N.Y. on July 18, 1925. When He was 5 years old, his parents bought him a Tin fiddle for Christmas, which he learned to play, (He stills has that tin fiddle). When he was 6 his great uncle, Durward Kelly, gave him a ¾ fiddle. Hilton learned from his father, Carson Kelly, and his grandfather, Ward Kelly. The fiddle Hilton plays today is the one his grandfather bought in the 1880's. It was passed on through his father to him. In 1937, at the age of 12, Hilton started playing at school, dances, and house parties. In 1940 he began playing and calling square dances. Hilton is very busy with his band that includes wife Stella on the piano, and 2 guitar players. They play at square dances and nursing homes in the Catskill and Southeastern regions of New York State.

**1998****FRED BINGLE****1932 -**

Fred Bingle was born in Croghan, N.Y. in 1932. Fred was 10 years old when he began playing a fiddle that belonged to a friend, Frank Jeffrey. Frank was a former French-Canadian, from whom Fred learned many of his hornpipes and reels. Fred took lessons from sister, Irene and played in the Carthage High school Orchestra. Over the years he has played at cake walks, church functions, Beaver Falls minstrel shows, and, spur - of - the - moment – dances. The first group he played with was called "The Fancy Four", and, the last was called "The String Pickers". Fred has spent considerable time playing at nursing homes and local venues with Fiddlin' Friends. He likes all kinds of music, but nothing, to him, compares to the old time fiddling. He appreciates "The North American Old Time Fiddlers Association" efforts to preserve the music for the future.

**1999****NORMA "GRANNY" SWEET****1916 - 2000**

Born November 15, 1916, Norma A. "Granny" Sweet has devoted her life to music for others. Taught fiddle to countless people throughout her 80-some years. In her early years, she felt she never fit in with organized, classical-type music--too "structured" and "perfect." By listening, she learned music ranging from country and bluegrass to ballads, folk and blues--people-music! Later she taught it to others, a perfect way to promote old time music. Her students ranged from age 5 to 80+. She encouraged people to play, even when they thought they couldn't. Granny went everywhere to play music--never said "No." From a 93-year-old whom she had playing tambourine and maracas, "I have derived many hours of enjoyment...Granny Sweet has always encouraged me...she is well loved by all who know her." "I cannot say enough for her...her music has inspired me to dance like a 20-year-old, said an 84-year-old man. Another lady reports that "she is always thinking of others...she does a lot of good stuff for other people." Someone else tells us that, "I have watched her work with the younger generation, encouraging and teaching them...she gives every age group her free time to entertain people at no cost to anyone...she brings much happiness." From another Senior Citizen of Granby, New York, "I know she has helped the young folks of Granby and other places by keeping them interested in old time music, both by teaching and other ways. She was very active in helping the Senior Citizens of the Community through her shared talent. A woman from Fulton, New York says, "Norma's help to the youth and seniors with teaching and music has greatly been appreciated. Norma is loved by everyone...And, as a Christian, she lives her belief." Another reports that "She has gotten teens into music and off the streets." "Through her unselfish love for music and willingness to help others, many of us have benefited in music and self-esteem." One of the dancing seniors at Granby, New York, "My life has been enriched by the fiddle music Norma Sweet plays...The exercise is great for us old people. I know my health is better. Norma has also given me courage and hope in my fight against cancer as she has told us of her cancer operations...She just keeps playing her fiddle and being happy." And finally, from another fellow-musician, "[she] donates her time and talent to local nursing homes and community senior citizens...she always says 'music is therapy'" and she is so right!

**PHIL BEYER****1935 - 2008**

Fiddlin' Phil Beyer was born in 1935 in West Martinsburg, N.Y. The name "Fiddlin' Phil from Tug Hill" came about because his home was on Tug Hill. His dad played the fiddle but used only one string. When Phil was 16, he heard the tune "Footprints in the Snow" and decided he was going to play that tune. He sent for a Tommy Jackson record and learned the tune on his dad's fiddle. Phil and his brother Walt, had a band called "The Hill Top Rhythmias" and played at dances and Grange Functions until Walt got too busy with his farm. Double stops, double strings, playing country, bluegrass, and old time fiddle tunes marked Phil's style. People like the way he held his fiddle on his chest rather than under his chin. He loves to play and bring a smile to their faces. Sadly Phil passed away in 2008.

## 2000 to present

### **2000 WILLIAM “BILL” MILLER**

**1925 - 2001**

William “Bill” Miller was born in Churubusco, N.Y. in 1925, one of 12 children. He grew up on the family farm. Bill is a self-taught fiddler, having started at the age of 8, using his grandfather’s fiddle. By the he was 9 he was playing at house parties. In 1939, at the age of 14, he performed at the New York State Folk Festival at Madison Square Garden. He formed his first band at age 16. He plays entirely by ear. Bill retired from General Motors, Massena in 1987. Then he devoted his time to entertaining senior citizens and nursing homes with his group “Miller’s Old Timers”. Bill has been a member of The Association of North Country Fiddlers since 1989, and Black River Valley Fiddlers since 1994. Bill has been playing for dances, Parties, and special events steadily for 60 years.

### **2001 DONALD PERKINS**

**1941 -**

Donald Perkins was born in Plattsburgh, N.Y. on April 3, 1941. Donald started playing the fiddle at 5 years of age. His ancestors came from Scotland and he had a great, great grandmother, a grandfather, a grandmother, and His mother who played the fiddle. His mother also played the piano and his father called square dances as Donald played the fiddle. He has played with such fiddle greats as Jimmy Hamblin, Frank Orsini, Ken Bonner, George Pratt, and Rollie Swinton. He has played with many bands as Smokie Green, The Boys, The Kennebec Valley Boys, Bluegrass Supply Co., The Gibson Brothers Bluegrass Band, and Cedar Ridge Bluegrass Band. Don has placed 1st three times at the Cobleskill Fair, 3rd at Barre, VT., and 1st at Grand Champion at Huntington, Canada, and 1st at Tunbridge Fair, VT. Just ask Donnie for any tune—whatever style you like, or tune you ask for—he likely can play it for you!!

### **2002 JACQUELINE “JACKIE” HOBBS**

**1973 -**

Jacqueline “Jackie” Hobbs was born in Lorraine, N.Y. in 1973. She has been playing the fiddle since the ages of 5. She acquired her musical talent from both sides of her family, but was mostly influenced by her grandmother, Alice Clemens, 3 time N.Y. State Ladies Champion. Jackie grew up fiddling with her grandmother, she entered several contests, placing 4th in the N.Y. State Division. Jackie continued fiddling while studying to be a music teacher and has played at many events throughout N.Y. She has appeared at Grand Central Station and the Metropolitan Museum of Arts, Jackie teaches music at Sandy Creek Central School. She plays with many groups, most often, the Clemens Tradition with family members. She has been influenced by many great fiddlers such as Graham & Eleanor Townsend, Donald Woodcock and of course, Alice Clemens. She lives in the Chereshnoski family home in Lorraine with her husband, Lester and two daughters, Caitlin & Elizabeth.

**2003****NEAL MORRISON****- 2009**

Neal Morrison was a veteran fiddler familiar to North Country audiences. He was born in Gaines, W.V., to a musical family. His father, C.K. Morrison, inspired him to the fiddle playing tradition, which was carried on by several of his 11 siblings. In 1976, he was invited to play at a bicentennial program at Hammond and then joined the Association of North Country Fiddlers. In 1986, Neal was part of the North Country contingent of fiddlers who went to the Meadowlands in New Jersey for the Statue of Liberty celebration. He participated in NYSOTFA events for many years. Neal also does some luthier work and fiddle "set ups". He has played with many groups down through the years, most recently "The Goodtimes". Favorite tunes include Red Apple Rag, Smith's Rag and Chippewa Breakdown. A favorite fiddler was Kenny Baker. He and his wife, Marge lived and raised their four children on a farm in Hammond, N.Y. He passed away April 12, 2009.

**2004****VINCENT E. BOYEA****1939 -**

Vincent E. Boyea was born on April 23, 1939, in Westville, NY. His paternal grandmother played the fiddle by ear. Vincent's Dad, Everest, also played the violin. A relative of Vincent made him a small fiddle and bow when he was six years old, and that's when he got started. Vincent plays the fiddle by ear. He only took ten lessons at the age of 14. He played his first dance at 17 years of age at a local Grange Hall. Since then he has played with several bands over the years. He has also competed in many contests. He entered his first contest in Huntingdon, Quebec in 1974 and won first place. Vince and his wife, Louise, have raised four children in Westville, NY. Since his retirement from farming and as a rural mail carrier, he can take time to play and has been participating in local fiddle flings, entertaining in area nursing homes, at local events and at the Fiddlers' Hall of Fame in Osceola. Vince's children are musical as well, and he shares his skills and talent with them. In May of 2003, Vincent released his first recording, a CD entitled "Vince the Prince". The fiddle he plays on was a gift from his Godfather, who played many barn dances. Vince is an active member of the New York State Old Tyme Fiddlers' Assn., belonging to the ANCF and Black River Chapters. He was inducted into the New York State Fiddlers' Hall of Fame in July 2004. He has a distinctive French-Canadian flavor to his tunes and has a wide repertoire.

**2005****PHILIP BANASZAK****1951 -**

Phil was born in 1951 in Buffalo, NY and began taking violin lessons in third grade. In High School, his dedication to the violin diminished. Eleven years later, he began to practice in earnest. Influencing him were Mark O'Conner, Bobby Hicks, Richard Greene, Chubby Wise and Frank Reilly. He joined a band named "Half Grass", and played with many local musicians. One of Western New York's best known fiddlers, he has won the Erie County Fair Contest three times and the Empire State Resident Championship in 1991. He is on the faculty at the Community Music School where he teaches fiddle, violin and mandolin. He teaches a little at home and is a Chemical Dependency Counselor. In 2002, he released a book & CD of original neo-traditional fiddle music. He plays for Contra Dances, with Groups in Western NY, at Fiddlers' Fun Chapter events and at the North American Fiddlers' Hall of Fame in Osceola. Phil is married to his wife, Gretchen and together they form "City Fiddle" living and teaching in Buffalo, N.Y.

**2006      CURLY VAUGHN****1922 -**

Born in Chateaugay, NY in 1922, Curly Vaughn started playing fiddle at the age of 12. He taught himself to play the fiddle along with guitar, banjo and mandolin. His mother Maude also played fiddle. After playing for the Rotary Club in Chateaugay in 1935, the group bought him a brand new fiddle. He played with Reverend James Fideley who gave him two years of fiddle lessons for free. Since his father passed away when he was 14 years of age he joined the Civilian Conservation corps to help his mother. He is one of the original members of the Sante Fe Riders on WKTU in Utica, NY with Wade Patrick. He has also played with several bands including Ronnie Smith Band, Jimmy Neilson and headlined a group called Just Plain Country. Also he has backed up performers such as Hank Shaw Hawkins, Lee Moore and the Stone Mountain Boys. He has been at various events in the North Country and has appeared several times at the North American Fiddlers Hall of Fame.

**2007      LEON BOYEA**

Leon Boyea started playing fiddle at the age of eight on his Dad's fiddle that was off limits, but his Mother told him that it was okay to play it. It was necessary to replace the fiddle in the case as his father had left it. One day Leon got carried away and his father walked in as Leon was playing his fiddle. To his surprise, his father was very pleased with what he had heard. Leon played for his first dance at the age of ten. In high school he played with the Future Farmers of America Hillbillies and won the state talent show in Baldwinsville, NY. Over the years he has played with local bands such as the Old Timers Band, Settlers Band, and North Country Fiddlers. He now plays with the Border Rambler Band. Leon played for Ned Landry and played with Graham Townsend, Lorimer Higgins, and Shirley Spiedel. He also currently plays with the Association of North Country Fiddlers for local events and senior citizens in the area. He is a retired farmer. Leon's favorite fiddlers are Ivan Hicks, Graham Townsend, Ned Landry, and Lorimer Higgins who taught him a lot of the music he plays today. Leon plays strictly by ear and loves to play harmony.

**2008      GEORGE H HALL****1922 - 2014**

George H. Hall was born in Indiana, January 23, 1922, and was raised on a farm in Scipio, Indiana. He lived many places before ending up in Central New York, Town of Ira. He served in the US Air Force in the 40s and traveled widely around the world, jamming wherever he could. Retired now, he spends part of his year in Florida. Early musical influences were his father, grandfather and uncle sparked his interest in fiddle music. His first tune was "She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain." From this he started playing square dances, barn dances, anyplace he could and developed his fiddle skills. To this day George doesn't read music-he listens to a tune a few times and runs with it, adapting his own unique music style. George helped establish the Oswego Valley Fiddlers Chapter in the 1980s. Through the years he has played with several bands and groups in Central NY and in Florida. In his 80s, George can still be found playing music all over the area with many groups and at the NYS Old Tyme Fiddlers.

## **2009 HOPE GRIETZER**

Hope Grietzer, originally from Johnson City, NY, fell in love with fiddle music in college, playing for square dances with the Geneseo String Band, led by renowned ethnomusicologist, Jim Kimball. She later studied with earlier NY State Inductee, Larry Downey, while fiddling throughout NY State and Pennsylvania. After a period of time active in fiddling in Colorado, Hope returned to the Owego, NY area where she is now the president of the Fiddlin's Fun Chapter of NYSOTFA and currently plays for concerts and contra dances with several musical groups. She has been a concert artist at North American Fiddlers Hall of Fame. A great portion of Hope's time is devoted to teaching fiddling to a large number of youths and adults.

## **2010 IVAN HALE 1935 - 2017**

Ivan Hale from the Philadelphia area in the North Country of New York State is a member of the Black River Chapter of the NYSOTFA. He started with the fiddle at age 7, and as was the case for many fiddlers of the time, he was self-taught and learned to play by ear from listening to other fiddlers, the finest who at the time could be heard regularly on live radio programs. By age 10, Ivan and his sisters were playing for regular round and square dances, attended by as many as 600. He has played with many musical groups through the years that have played on radio and opened shows for nationally known entertainers such as Hank Thompson, Tom T. Hall, Dock Williams and Waylon Jennings. Ivan has also played with the Country Stompers, and the Country Kings.

## **2011 KEITH HUNT**

Keith Hunt was born during the "great depression" and grew up on Wellesley Island on the Saint Lawrence River. He attended the local island dances from his earliest memory, where his father played banjo with local island musicians. Thus, he grew up with the North Country and Canadian fiddling of the area and listened to great fiddlers such as Don Messer, Ned Landry, Earl Mitton, Jim McGill, King Ganam, and others on live radio shows of the time. Keith started out playing the music on a tenor banjo, but soon found that the fiddle tunes were better suited to playing on the fiddle. Keith finally got a serious start on the fiddle by attending a group fiddle lesson given by Eleanor Townsend at the NYSOTFA Fiddlers Picnic around 1978. Tellea Atwell assisted Eleanor in that class and Tellea continued working with Keith through the present. After leaving Wellesley Island, Keith always sought the kind of dancing like he knew from the island, never quite finding it the same anywhere else. However, in his search, he ended up doing the dances of many lands and international folk dancers. He also learned to call traditional square dances and contra dances such as he grew up with. Keith's first love, musically, is the traditional jigs, reels, and related dance fiddle tunes. In the past, Keith has been the instructor for the square and contra dance workshops during the 1980's at the Fiddler's Picnic. Keith has taught at the Day Long Workshops at the Fiddlers' Picnic and is serving as President of NYSOTFA.

## **2012 GRETCHEN PAIGE KOEHLER**

Gretchen Paige Koehler is an important member of the North Country fiddling scene. She first picked up the fiddle at age five. During her childhood she participated in numerous fiddle contests throughout the North Eastern US and Canada and won many titles throughout those regions. She has several recordings and has been in several groups including Frog Bridge with her sister Rebecca and Fiddler's Three with Inductee Donald Woodcock. She has encouraged others to take up the art and has an extensive group of young musicians she teaches near her home in Potsdam, NY. It is our privilege to welcome Gretchen Paige Koehler into the NYS Fiddlers' Hall of Fame and Museum.

## **2013      LAURA DENNIS**

Although Laura's mother came from a family of fiddlers from Quebec, Canada, Laura had little exposure to fiddling until later years. Fifteen years ago, she attended a fiddle concert and found the music magical and exciting. Desiring to learn to fiddle, Laura contacted a local fiddler and Hall of Fame Inductee, Randy Kerr, who helped start her on her way to fulfilling her childhood dream. Randy consented to get her started on the fiddle and she learned many, many old time fiddle and Celtic tunes from Randy over the years, with Jessie Gotham providing backup on the piano. Laura has shared her tunes and experiences with many people at performances and has taught beginning fiddling to a number of aspiring young people as well as adults. She is a member of both the Central Chapter and Black River Valley Chapter Fiddlers. She has presented three concerts at the Fiddlers' Hall of Fame and performs regularly for chapter concerts, fundraisers, weddings, funerals, county fairs and church services. As her friends and family are well aware, fiddling and performing has been a great source of joy in Laura's life.

## **2014      RALPH STREETER      1931 -**

Ralph Streeter was born on May 28, 1931. The second of three boys, Ralph grew up in a very music rich household with his mom playing both fiddle and piano. Ralph learned to play the mandolin by listening to his mother and later mastered playing music by ear. His affinity for music led him to play guitar and later, the fiddle. Ralph played in his first public performance at the Castorland Community Hall with the Streeter Brothers. This group, created by Ralph and his brothers, continued playing for five years under this name until changing its name to the Adirondack Playboys. Always a showman and entertainer, he continued to play with the band into the 1980's. The group appeared in many locations throughout eastern Jefferson, Lewis and Hamilton Counties. Ralph and his wife, Audrey, have a son who has picked up the strong musical traditions of the family. Rick, Ralph's son joined the Adirondack Playboys in the 1960's. Rick started by playing mandolin and eventually fiddle with the band upon Ralph's death in 1991. Ralph's favorite tunes to play were "Orange Blossom Special" and "Black Mountain Rag". Ralph Streeter lived his life with music in his heart and his legacy lives on as a result of his fiddling.

## **2015      SUSAN K. BARRINGTON      1946 -**

Susan began violin lessons in elementary school in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Upon moving to New York State she continued playing in community orchestras and then joined a group that allowed her to bridge into the old time fiddle. She enjoys fiddling with people of all ages and has advised many fiddlers, young and old. She has participated in teaching programs at the YMCA After-School program, judged local talent competitions and led Kids' Kamp in Osceola. In 1996 Susan joined the Oswego Valley Chapter and with the help of Granny Sweet, has researched, collected, transcribed, catalogued, played and performed as many fiddle tunes as she can. She now leads the OVFA and runs Tuesday evening practices. The group performs several concerts a year. Susan is not only a born instructor but a natural organizer as well. She served the NYSOTFA Board of Directors as member and treasurer for six years, designed the NYSOTFA website and performed countless behind the scenes jobs. Susan is a recipient of the Ray Cronk Memorial award as well. Susan's musical career of over 50 years continues to enrich the lives of so many who have come to love old time fiddling music as much as she does.

## **2016 CHAD MILLER**

Chad Miller from Camden, NY was honored as the New York State Inductee into the North American Fiddlers Hall of Fame. Chad became interested in playing fiddle when he attended the NYSOTFA Fiddlers Picnic as a child. He learned how to play by ear under the tutelage of New York State Inductee, Murph Baker. He is a dedicated members of the Central Chapter fiddlers, performs at various venues around the state including Watkins Glen Fiddlers' Gathering and the Fiddlers Fair that takes place at Genessee Country Village and Museum. Chad works hard to preserve the music of the old time fiddlers of New York State and works hard to promote fiddling in Central New York.

## **2017 JOE DAVOLI**

Joe Davoli was only three years old when his parents overheard him humming the "Star Spangled Banner" in the backseat of their car. They were on their way from a Fourth of July concert. Thinking that he may have a knack for music, they started Joe with fiddle lessons; later became a graduate of DePaul University and attended the Berklee School of Music.

He has studied with improvisational greats Matt Glaser, Darol Anger, and John Blake. Joe composed and recorded music for the off-Broadway revival of Israel Horowitz' "The Indian Wants the Bronx." He has won two Syracuse Area Music Awards; one for "Best Bluegrass Instrumentalist/Vocalist" and the other for his CD release with guitarist Harvey Nusbaum in the "Best Folk/Bluegrass Recording" category. He served as musical supervisor for the short film "Brando from the Neck Down" in which its soundtrack features Joe playing fiddle and mandolin.

Joe has published a successful method book for fiddle and mandolin that is currently in its second edition. His solo CD "Game Plan" has received international acclaim; and another popular CD has been published as well: "Joe Davoli & Harvey Nusbaum: Fiddle & Guitar." He is a member of Ceili Rain, serves as a studio musician and is a violin teacher with students of all ages including a number of NYSOTFA Fiddlers. He is a member of the Central Chapter of the NYSOTFA.